

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 05571 231531Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2394

S E C R E T CAIRO 05571

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG US

SUBJ: MESSAGE FOR SADAT AND FAHMY

REF: STATE 097713

1. IT HAS INDEED BEEN FRUSTRATING TO GET BACK NOTHING FROM FAHMY EXCEPT REITERATIONS OF EGYPTIAN SUSPICIONS ABOUT OUR RELATIONSHIP TO SYRIAN ROLE IN LEBANON. THIS, UNFORTUNATELY, HAS BEEN A FACT OF LIFE HERE AND SHOWS LITTLE SIGN OF ABATING. AS I HAVE PREVIOUSLY INDICATED, ONLY WAY TO ASSUAGE CURRENT EGYPTIAN SUSPICIONS OF SYRIA IS IF ASAD STOPS ATTACKING SINAI II AND ATTRIBUTING LEBANESE CHAOS TO SINAI II AND ITS SIGNER, SADAT. THAT, I AM SURE, IS NOT CURRENTLY IN THE CARDS.

2. I AGREE THAT MY TALK OF APRIL 21 WITH FAHMY, BASED ON YOUR MESSAGE CONTAINED IN STATE 95617, WAS THE FIRST TIME HE SHOWED ANY REAL INTEREST IN A SERIOUS DIALOGUE. IN DOING SO, HE MADE NO BONES ABOUT HIS CONTINUING SKEPTISM OF OUR ROLE VIS-A-VIS THE SYRIANS, BUT THIS WAS TO BE EXPECTED. IN MY JUDGEMENT, REASON FOR HIS SLIGHTLY GREATER FORTHCOMINGNESS WAS THAT APRIL 21 MESSAGE HAD A LITTLE MORE MEAT THAN MOST OF THOSE WE PREVIOUSLY SENT HIM.

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WE HAVE WORKED WITH FAHMY LONG ENOUGH BY NOW THAT WE

SHOULD KNOW MDCE RECEIPT OF A MESSAGE RARELY SATISFIES HIM. TO DO THAT, THE MESSAGE MUST SAY SOMETHING. AS YOU KNOW, HE HAS COMPLAINED THAT MANY OF OUR MESSAGES ARE LARGELY "COMPOSITION) EXERCISES. ON ONE OCCASION, TOO, HE SAID TO ME THAT HE GETS MORE OUT OF READING THE NEWSPAPERS THAN HE DOES FROM SOME OF THE MESSAGES WE SEND HIM. FOR REASONS THAT I AM SURE WERE PERFECTLY VALID, THE MESSAGES WE SENT HIM ON THE EUROPEAN TRIP WERE LEAN PICKINGS AS REGARDS SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT. FAHMY IS TOO SMART NOT TO NOTICE THIS AND, WHENEVER IT HAPPENS, HIS INNATE SUSPICIONS ARE AROUSED.

3. I HAVE THUS FAR BEEN UNABLE TO GET FAHMY TODAY, EITHER AT HIS HOME OR AT HIS OFFICE. IT IS FRIDAY AND HE MAY BE OUT. IF I CANNOT GET HIM TODAY, I WILL DELIVER LATEST MESSAGE TOMORROW. I THINK HE WILL BE PLEASED WITH IT. IT PROVIDES THE KIND OF DETAIL ABOUT OUR EVALUATION OF LEBANON AND OUR ACTIVITIES THAT HE LIKES. HE MAY NOT AGREE WITH ALL OF OUR VIEWS, BUT HE WILL APPRECIATE OUR CANDOR AND TRY TO RECIPROCATATE. BUT WE SHOULD NOT EXPECT TOO MUCH. AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, THE EGYPTIAN ASSESSMENT OF WHAT SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT LEBANON REMAINS LARGELY PAROCHIAL AND TACTICAL. IT IS DICTATED MORE BY ANTI-SYRIAN CONSIDERATIONS THAN ANY OVERWHELMING CONCERN ABOUT STOPPING THE LEBANESE BLOODLETTING. EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, POLICIES, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, POLITICAL SITUATION, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowelIE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CAIRO05571
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P850108-1992
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760431/aaaaazpy.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 76 STATE 97713
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowelIE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <21 OCT 2004 by RowelIE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MESSAGE FOR SADAT AND FAHMY
TAGS: PFOR, PEPR, PINS, MPOL, US, EG, LE, SY, (SADAT, ANWAR), (ASAD, HAFIZ), (FAHMY, ISMAIL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006